

January 18, 2005

The Joint Senate and House Appropriations Committees met on Tuesday, January 18, 2005, in Room 341 State Capitol, convening at 10:00 a.m. Members present from the Senate are shown on the attached Roll Call sheet.

The meeting was called to order by Senator Jack Hill, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Opening remarks were offered by Senator Hill and Representative Ben Harbin, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

Governor Sonny Perdue presented opening remarks to the Joint Appropriations Committees and a brief overview of his recommendations for the S.F.Y. 2005 Amended General and the S.F.Y. 2006 General Budgets.

Mr. David Sjoquist with the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University summarized the state's current economic outlook and gave a brief discussion on revenue estimating to the Joint Committees.

The following persons testified before the Joint Committees regarding the S.F.Y. 2005 Amended General Budget ([H.B. 84](#)) and S.F.Y. 2006 General Budget ([HB 85](#)).

1. Bart L. Graham, Commissioner - Dept. of Revenue
2. Kathy Cox, State School Superintendent - Dept. of Education
3. Tim Burgess, Commissioner - Dept. of Community Health
4. B. J. Walker, Commissioner – Dept. of Human Resources

Any documents offered in support of the testimony given can be found in Committee files. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Johnson of the 1st, Secretary

/s/ Angela Touhy, Recording Secretary

January 19, 2005

The Joint Senate and House Appropriations Committees met on Wednesday, January 19, 2005, in Room 341 State Capitol, convening at 10:00 a.m. Members present from the Senate are shown on the attached Roll Call sheet.

The meeting was called to order by Representative Ben Harbin, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. Opening remarks were offered by Representative Harbin and Senator Hill, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The following persons testified before the Joint Committees regarding the S.F.Y. 2005 Amended General Budget ([H.B. 84](#)) and S.F.Y. 2006 General Budget ([HB 85](#)).

1. Dr. Thomas C. Meredith, Chancellor - Board of Regents
2. Mike Vollmer, Commissioner - Dept. of Technical and Adult Education
3. Harold Linnenkohl, Commissioner - Dept. of Transportation
4. Steve Stancil, Director - Georgia Regional Transportation Authority
5. Doug Hooker, Executive Director - State Road and Tollway Authority
6. Robert Morris, Director of External Affairs - Ga. Ports Authority
7. James Donald, Commissioner - Dept. of Corrections
8. Albert Murray, Commissioner - Dept. of Juvenile Justice
9. Milton E. Nix, Jr., Chairman - Board of Pardons and Paroles
10. Col. Bill Hitchens, Commissioner - Dept. of Public Safety
11. Judge H. Gibbs Flanders, President - Council of Superior Court Judges
12. Pete Skandalakis, President - Prosecuting Attorneys' Council
13. Michael Mears, Director - Ga. Public Defender Standards Council
14. Wrap up - Tim Connell, Director - Office of Planning and Budget

Any documents offered in support of the testimony given can be found in Committee files. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Johnson of the 1st, Secretary

/s/ Angela Touhy, Recording Secretary

February 15, 2005

The Senate Appropriations Committee met on Tuesday, February 15, 2005 in Room 341 State Capitol, convening at 9:00 a.m. Members present are listed on the attached Roll Call sheet.

The meeting was called to order by Senator Jack Hill, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Business was conducted as follows:

Adoption of Senate Appropriations Committee Rules - “Do pass” by Unterman of the 45th, seconded by Kemp of the 46th, passed by unanimous vote

H. B. 84 by Richardson of the 19th and others - Supplemental appropriations; FY 2004-2005

A bill to amend an act providing appropriations for the State Fiscal Year 2004-2005, known as the “General Appropriations Act.”

Chairman Hill of the 4th provided a brief overview of what is contained in the budget document and directed Mr. Kevin Fillion, Director of the Senate Budget Office to review the Change Report explaining all differences between the House and Senate version and to respond to any questions.

Following many questions and requests for clarification, a motion was made by Cagle of the 49th, that **H.B. 84 “Do pass by substitute,”** seconded by Kemp of the 46th. The bill passed with 20 votes for and 2 opposed, (Thomas of the 2nd and Seay of the 34th).

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Johnson of the 1st, Secretary

/s/ Angela Touhy, Recording Secretary

March 2, 2005

The Senate Appropriations Committee met on Wednesday, March 2, 2005 in Room 341 State Capitol, convening at 10:30 a.m. Members present are listed on the attached Roll Call sheet.

The meeting was called to order by Senator Jack Hill, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Business was conducted as follows:

Mr. Lonice Barrett, Director of Implementation for the Commission for a New Georgia, gave a brief overview of their mission and introduced staff members to the Committee.

S.B. 154 by Shafer of the 48th and others-State Agency/Officer; shall not accept/utilize certain grants/funds

This legislation provides clarification on the utilization of grants and funds from settlement funds.

Senator Shafer of the 48th, author of the bill, presented bill to the Committee and answered any questions.

A motion was made by Moody of the 56th, that **S.B. 154**, “Do pass,” seconded by Tolleson of the 20th. Unanimous vote.

S.B. 254 by Hill of the 4th and others-State Budgeting; comprehensive revision Senate/House Budget Office

Kevin Fillion, Director of the Senate Budget Office, explained all budgetary program changes affected by this bill.

After a lengthy discussion and questions, a motion was made that **S.B. 254**, “Do pass” by Harp of the 29th, seconded by Mullis of the 53rd. The bill passed with 15 votes for and 4 opposed (Meyer Von Bremen of the 12th, Tate of the 38th, Thomas of the 2nd, and Thompson of the 33rd).

S.R. 38 by Meyer Von Bremen of the 12th and others - CA: National Guard Members; extended period;

This resolution proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Georgia that would authorize the General Assembly to provide by law for financial assistance grants to families of members in the Georgia National Guard or reserve forces of the armed forces who have been engaged in military duty for extended periods. This resolution creates a non lapsing trust fund for this purpose.

Senator Meyer Von Bremen of the 12th, explained the purpose of the resolution to the Committee.

Following a brief discussion and questions, a motion was made by Thomas of the 2nd that [S.R. 38](#) “Do pass,” seconded by Tate of the 38th. Unanimous vote.

[S.B. 60](#) by [Golden of the 8th](#) [and others](#) - HEROES; create commission; provide duties and powers

This bill creates the Commission on Helpful Economic Relief for Our Exceptional Soldiers (HEROES). It also produces the HEROES Trust Fund to consist of any voluntary contributions or by appropriation for the purpose of providing financial assistance grants to families of members of the Georgia National Guard or reserve forces of the armed forces who have been engaged in military duty for extended periods.

Senator Golden of the 8th presented the bill to the Committee and answered questions that followed.

Chairman Hill then introduced Brigadier General William T. Nesbitt, Assistant Adjutant General for the Georgia Department of Defense to discuss the importance of providing assistance to the families of Georgia’s troops.

Following this presentation, Chairman Hill distributed a copy of [S.R. 334](#) for the Senate Appropriations Committee’s review and requested that members sign on to this legislation.

After further discussion, no motion was made on [S.B. 60](#).

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Johnson of the 1st, Secretary

/s/ Angela Touhy, Recording Secretary

March 11, 2005

The Senate Appropriations Committee met on Friday, March 11, 2005 in Room 341 State Capitol, convening at 8:30 a.m. Members present are listed on the attached Roll Call sheet.

The meeting was called to order by Senator Jack Hill, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Business was conducted as follows:

S.R. 334 by Hill of the 4th and others-Georgia National Guard Family Support Foundation, Inc.; urging financial contributions.

This legislation encourages private persons to make financial contributions to the Georgia National Guard Family Support Foundation, Inc. (a 501c(3) charitable organization), which provides humanitarian support, including no-interest loans and grants, to members of the Georgia Department of Defense and their families.

Senator Hill of the 4th provided a brief explanation of the bill to the Committee and answered any questions presented.

A motion was made that **S.R. 334**, “**Do pass**” by Harp of the 29th, seconded by Mullis of the 53rd. The bill passed with a unanimous vote.

H. B. 85 by Richardson of the 19th and others - General appropriations; FY 2005-2006

A bill to make and provide appropriations for the State Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2006; and for other purposes.

Chairman Hill of the 4th presented the Budget Change Report and reviewed all differences between the House and Senate Version.

Senator Williams of the 19th discussed highlights and urgent issues regarding the Medicaid budget.

Several Senators expressed concerns over the status of current Medicaid budget programs.

Following a lengthy discussion and questions, a motion was made by Cagle of the 49th that **H.B. 85**, “**Do pass by substitute**”, seconded by Unterman of the 45th.

The bill passed with 19 votes for and 3 opposed (Meyer Von Bremen of the 12th, Tate of the 38th, and Thomas of the 2nd).

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Johnson of the 1st, Secretary

/s/ Angela Touhy, Recording Secretary

March 21, 2005

The Senate Appropriations Committee met on Monday, March 21, 2005 in Room 341 State Capitol, convening at 10:30 a.m. Members present are listed on the attached Roll Call sheet.

The meeting was called to order by Senator Jack Hill, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Business was conducted as follows:

H.B. 509 by Harbin of the 118th and others - Planning and Budget, Office of; program budgeting; revenue shortfall reserve

This legislation implements program budgeting as well as establishing the Revenue Shortfall Reserve which is a reserve of state funds.

Kevin Fillion, Director of the Senate Budget Office, highlighted the bill contents and answered questions. A motion was made by Mullis of the 53rd that **H.B. 509**, “**Do pass by substitute**,” seconded by Kemp of the 46th.

H.R. 108 by Benfield of the 85th and others - Harrison, Clarence; compensate

A Resolution compensating Mr. Clarence Harrison; and for other purposes.

Representative Benfield of the 85th presented the resolution, briefly explaining the details concerning Mr. Harrison’s imprisonment. She then introduced former DeKalb County District Attorney, Mr. Jeffrey H. Brickman to speak to the Committee. As District Attorney in 2003, Mr. Brickman worked with the Georgia Innocence Project to obtain the necessary DNA testing which provided the conclusive evidence completely exonerating Mr. Harrison of all charges.

The compensation amount of \$1 million was based on economic data provided by an economic analysis firm.

The Senate Study Committee offered a substitute recommending that the sum be paid in the form of an annuity over a twenty year period and said sum shall not be subject to state income taxes. The substitute also provided that Mr. Harrison have access to membership in the Employee’s State Health Benefit Plan.

After a lengthy discussion with Legislative counsel and questions, the Committee agreed only to the twenty year annuity substitution. A motion was made by Moody of the 56th that **H.R. 108**, “**Do pass by substitute**”, seconded by Grant of the 25th. Unanimous vote.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Johnson of the 1st, Secretary

/s/ Angela Touhy, Recording Secretary

October 25, 2005

The Senate Appropriations Committee met on Tuesday, October 25, 2005 in Room 341 State Capitol, convening at 1:00 p.m. Members present are listed on the attached Roll Call sheet.

The meeting was called to order by Senator Jack Hill, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Business was conducted as follows:

The Committee was called together to hear a presentation by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), a nationally recognized authority on program/performance-based budgeting, as well as legislators from other states currently using this budgeting format. The meetings focus was to assist members to a better understanding of this program as the Senate Appropriations Committee proceeded with the first appropriations bill that inaugurated this more accountable form of budgeting.

The meeting concluded after a brief discussion and questions session.

Any documents offered in support of the testimony given can be found in Committee files. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Johnson of the 1st, Secretary

/s/ Angela Touhy, Recording Secretary